

Atty. Dkt. No. 016907-0935

## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-10 and 43-56 are now pending in this application. New claim 56 was added. Claim 56 recites analogous limitations as claim 43, except that claim 56 recites that the first ferromagnetic layer consists of CoFe.

The Advisory Action mailed October 17, 2002 states that claim 43 "does not necessarily limit using only CoFe since the language 'consisting essentially' is broader." In response, Applicants have added claim 56 which recites that the first ferromagnetic layer consists of CoFe. Applicants note that the claimed ferromagnetic layer which consists of CoFe excludes the NiFeCo ferromagnetic layer of Diemy. Applicants submit that Diemy does not teach using a CoFe ferromagnetic layer in the SVMR element (see col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 6 of Diemy for a list of ferromagnetic layers taught by Diemy).

Lin provides no motivation for using a CoFe ferromagnetic layer in the SVMR element of Diemy. The Advisory Action notes that Liao generally teaches to use the CoFe layer in a magnetic head. That is not sufficient to establish obviousness. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, Liao must provide some motivation to specifically substitute the ferromagnetic layers disclosed by Diemy with the CoFe layer of Liao. However, Liao provides no suggestion or motivation for adding a CoFe layer into a spin valve film in particular or to use the CoFe layer in combination with an antiferromagnetic layer.

Furthermore, as shown in Mr. Iwasaki's Declaration, when the CoFe ferromagnetic layers are used in combination with a PtMn antiferromagnetic layer, a large increase in the MR ratio of a SVMR element occurs compared to when NiMn or FeMn antiferromagnetic layers are used with the CoFe ferromagnetic layer. As discussed in the previous Amendments, this result is clearly unexpected from the disclosures of Diemy or Lin.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully

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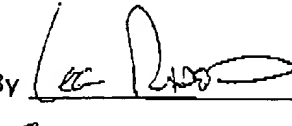
requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

4/2/03

By

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